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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Participation in Operation Alert 1957

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation as to the participation of this Agency in the relocation phase (15-19 July 1957) of Operation Alert 1957. This recommendation is set forth in paragraph 6.

2. In past years this Agency has participated in the annual Operation Alert exercises by programs designed to familiarize the members of the emergency force with the site and the process of relocation, and by engaging in problem play exercises under war-time assumptions. Inasmuch as the over-all assumptions governing the exercise play of the Government as a whole were domestic in nature, and, therefore, not meaningful to this Agency in terms of its mission, we have always prepared and used problem assumptions of our own in past exercises as a basis for an internal war game of CIA wartime operations. For reasons set forth below, we feel that a different approach would be more profitable for us in the 1957 Operation Alert.

3. We have considered and discarded the idea of attempting to engage in limited interagency play with the State Department and the Defense Department under special assumptions which were developed by an ad hoc committee under the guidance of the Office of Defense Mobilization. We were prompted in this decision by the fact that the assumptions thus prepared (although plausible) would not, in our opinion, give us such a sufficiently good work-out as to offset the advantages which we would gain by participation along lines which we shall describe below. Moreover, a review of experience in past participation has convinced us that a continuing drill without material change in procedures tends to militate against the flexibility which should be developed in the minds of the emergency force members in relation to the conditions which they might encounter under circumstances of actual emergency. We also were influenced by the fact that conferences between appropriate elements of this Agency and their established contacts in the Joint Chiefs of Staff developed the fact that JCS participation in the general war phase of the exercise (15-19 July 1957)

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will be limited, will not include overseas military situations or exercises relating to them, and will not lend itself to liaison or joint exercise play between the military establishment and this Agency.

4. The collective opinion of the designated planning representatives of all elements of this Agency is that our participation this year should be devoted to an intensive internal program of study and analysis of all of the planning, administrative, and support problems of relocation and carrying on our functions under circumstances of emergency which are peculiar to the mission of this Agency. This takes form among the three major components of the Agency along the following lines:

a. The Deputy Director (Plans) proposes to send a complement of his personnel to the relocation site to apply themselves to a concentrated study of the administrative needs involved in relocation and emergency functioning of the Clandestine Services elements. This would be a concentrated planning exercise to be accomplished by the deployment to the site of the administrative officers of the DD/P staff and area elements, with possibly some additional assistance. This group would work in close concert with appropriate elements of the DD/S component at the site. The Clandestine Services will rotate from 15 to 25 people to the relocation site for this purpose during the exercise. The Clandestine Services feel that the re-examination of their administrative requirements and arrangements for emergency is needed as a foundation from which a later headquarters war game exercise can be run in terms which would be more practical than in the past and which would meet the interests of the President's Board of Consultants.

b. The Deputy Director (Intelligence) proposes to convene all planners from throughout the DD/I component at the site during the exercise to review and re-analyze their war plans in the light of all known factors affecting emergency operations, with particular reference to the recommendations of the Killian Board. They would be engaged also in assisting the DD/P elements by providing planning advice and guidance on the wartime DD/I augmentation of DD/P overseas staffs. They would, in addition, analyze the requirements of Recommendation 2 of the Killian Report (dealing with the wartime organization of the intelligence community) and make a realistic appraisal of the solution thereto in the light of the

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revised NACIP's. They propose to deploy from 30 to 50 people to the relocation site to accomplish this purpose during the exercise.

g. The Deputy Director (Support) proposes to deploy to the site key planning personnel from all offices and staffs in the DD/S component to complement the activities of the DD/P and DD/I as described above, and, in addition, to engage independently in an analysis of the general over-all support problems devolving upon the Deputy Director (Support) under circumstances necessitating emergency relocation. Included in this analysis would be a coordinated study by representatives of all components present of the problems developed thus far in planning for augmentation of the relocation site and expanding the emergency force. It is estimated that 80 people from the DD/S components would be necessary to fulfill this purpose. This figure includes those persons required to support the exercise itself by supplementing the station staff at the site.

5. It is proposed to permit the rotation of personnel throughout the period of the relocation phase of the exercise where such rotation is necessary to carry out the planned participation described above. This will permit sufficient flexibility to have all necessary persons present for such time as their services are needed in carrying out the plan without obligating them or removing them from their primary duties at the headquarters throughout the entire exercise.

6. It is recommended that you approve the participation of this Agency in Operation Alert 1957 as described above.

Signed
L. K. White
Deputy Director
(Support)

EPO/MWB:rvh (6 June 1957)

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